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THE MORNING NEWS

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Antoni Gario participant of literary festival 'Crusa Lama'



"Crusa lama" – Crossing the Sea, is a literary festival where authors and poets of Lebanon (Iman Humaydan), Malaysia (Bernice Chauly), Somalia (Yasmine Allas), the Netherlands (Bas Heijne) and Aruba get together to present a special collection of their pieces. Aruban authors taking part are Celcio Luciano Milliard, Carresse Isings and Belinda de Veer. Another invited guest is Antoni Gario, who will entertain the audience with his songs

Following is a short biography of Antoni Gario.

Antoni Gario (Aruba), a person who dedicated and dedicates most of his time on the social problems of San Nicolas. Antoni Gario spent some time during his youth in

At the age of 12, Gario started his first band called "Boys Next Door" with

friends of the neighborhood and school : Tattoo (Richard Quandt) , Rusty (Reynaldo Sprott), Joseph Everon, The Hammer (Jeffrey Brooks), Giovanni Nicolas and Johnny Baptiste. Gario's first big hit and Aruba's first "Road Jam" was "Theolinda" followed by many others such as "Firewater", "Thighter", "Roots" which were performed by "Eclipse" with almost the same band-members as Boys Next Door.

At the same time Gario also designed and tailored clothing, designed emblems and painted them on cars and billboards for different businesses on Aruba. The actual painting on the face of Cas di Cultura was done by Gario as well. Gario also made murals for artists like Alpha Blondy and Di Blasio.

Afterwards he painted the same mural on canvas for

Alpha Blondy to take back home. Antoni is known in San Nicolas for his songs and way of expressing against the negligence and discrimination (taboo) existing against San Nicolas.

He also gives guidance to a group of youngsters with the purpose to keep them on the right path.

Gario's actual musical band is called "Le Groove". LG is well known on the island, they have too many hits to mention, sung by Antonio Mingo. Gario composed and arranged over 130 songs in Aruba.

He composed for many local artists among others : Tattoo, Rusty, BG, Ofo, Sashah, Inky, Sharella Lopes, Biggy Boy, Breaka, Hammer, T-Money, The Baron, Lord Lally, King George, Lord 4 all, Wong and many more. He also composed for artists in Curacao and the U.S.A. A total of 6 songs received the award of "Song of the year" on all radio stations over the island. Also in gospel he has songs that acclaimed this award sung by a local band called "God's Sons."

At the moment Gario is stimulating both his children to join the music business. They participated in the calypso and roadmarch contest this year and both went home with a prize, his daughter won Rookie of the year and his son won Road Jam of the year, both songs composed by Antoni Gario, Kaboom!

"Crusa Lama" will take place on April 18, in the gardens of the Arubiana Department of the Aruba National Library in Oranjestad at 7 p.m.

Organizers of the event are Aruba National Library together with Charuba Editorial Foundation and Stichting Winternachten. Everyone is invited to assist to this interesting festival. Tickets are available at Afl 5 at the Aruba National Library in Oranjestad and San Nicolas and the Arubiana Department.

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